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Your essential daily news | MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2015

High 14°C / Low 6°C Cloudy



Cinderella season ends

Montreal Canadiens defenceman P.K. Subban and Ottawa Senators forward Mika Zibanejad battle for a loose puck in front of goalie Carey Price on Sunday night at the Canadian Tire Centre. The Habs defeated the Sens 2-0. Story, metroSPORTS. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Struggling to contact Nepal

EARTHQUAKE

'All we can do is pray,' says director of non-profit



Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

Ottawa families with relatives in Nepal are still in shock over the 7.8-magnitude earthquake that devastated the central region of the country Saturday morning.

"Everybody here is not sleeping and not eating. Everything is really beyond our control; all we can do is pray at the moment," said Govinda Dahal, the executive director of the Ottawa-based Canada Foundation for Nepal.

More than 2,500 people have already been confirmed dead. Many more are injured and with-

out housing.

"The aftershocks keep coming, so many people don't know what to do or what not to do," Dahal said. "They are running out of food and water."

Most people are sleeping outside and can't return to their houses to charge their cellphones or call their families using mostly disconnected land lines, he added.

"Everyone is really worried because many of their family members are here but many are also in Nepal," said Dahal. "Many families haven't heard any bad news yet, so everything is just in our imagination right now."

Both the Canada Foundation for Nepal and the Nepalese Canadian Association of Ottawa said they are working on co-ordinating fundraising as the week continues.

There have also been concerns for Canadian tourists, including a team of 22 Ottawa residents



The aftershocks keep coming, so many people don't know what to do or what not to do.

Govinda Dahal, executive director of the Canada Foundation for Nepal

who left Wednesday planning to climb Mount Everest for charity.

"The team members are all safe and comfortable at the Yak & Yeti Hotel but understandably a little shaken up," organizer Shawn Dawson wrote on Facebook.

"We will not take any unnecessary risks, and all team members have chosen to continue, and play it day by day," he said.



MORE EARTHQUAKE COVERAGE, PAGE 11

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Friends want to name park after skateboarder

COMMUNITY

Charlie Bowins died of a seizure at 27

Charlie Bowins was a professional skateboarder, globetrotter and mentor.

He had his whole life ahead of him. But on March 3, after returning from a trip to Hawaii with his family, he died in his sleep after having a seizure. He was 27. To his family and friends in Ottawa's skateboarding community, which he worked so hard to support, it was a huge shock.

"He was so well-loved. He had such a good heart," said his friend Aaron Cayer, co-director of the Ottawa Skateboard Community Association. "He was a man of people."

"He dedicated his life to liv-

ing in the moment and surrounding himself with people he cared about."

Friends are pulling together to submit an application to the city to name a park at the McNabb Community Centre in Centretown after him. Bowins raised funds for the skateboard park, but did not live long enough to see it open this coming June.

Naming the park after him would give the Bowins family some peace, said Cayer. The two friends met 15 years ago at Sir Robert Borden High School.

"You might as well help one family if you can and put smiles on their faces," Cayer said.

Bowins worked as a camp counsellor for more than six years with the city and vol-

unteered with a not-for-profit group Cayer started called For Pivot's Sake, which donated refurbished skateboards to youth in social housing developments.

"He loved that program. He would do mentorship and lessons with the kids," recalled Cayer. Bowins' sudden death was very traumatic, Cayer said,



He really was about living in the moment.

Aaron Cayer

but working on this project would allow him to walk away with something positive after suffering such a tragic loss.

"He was a healthy young man. It just happened. The body is a strange thing," said Cayer. "He really was about living in the moment."

The public is invited to provide comments on the naming proposal until May 23.



Charlie Bowins passed away in his sleep on March 3.

COURTESY JULIE EAVES

KASHECHEWAN

388 more residents relocated

The chief of a remote northern Ontario First Nation says he is relieved that almost everyone in the community threatened by the rapidly rising Albany River has been evacuated. Kashechewan Chief Derek Stephen says 388 more people are being evacuated Saturday of the 1,900 total residents in the community. That is in addition to the 1,019 people who have already been brought to northern Ontario communities of Kapuskasing, Smooth Rock Falls, Wawa, and Cornwall in eastern Ontario. Band officials said evacuees were also being brought to Ottawa, but would later be housed in Cornwall. He says that leaves about 400 people left to relocate.

"Some people get frustrated, but that's the norm, but other than that, they're taking it serious," he said. "There's too many unknowns to stay in the community with the dike being vulnerable to overtopping and sloping and seeping."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

SEARCH & RESCUE

Man found after five days in Dominican Republic forest

An Ottawa family is breathing a little easier after a loved one who got lost in a Dominican Republic rainforest last week was found safe and sound.

Patrick Brown was visiting Puerta Plata with his parents last week when he suddenly ran into

the forest without any supplies.

His family set up a "Find Patrick Brown" Facebook page to help spread the message about his disappearance in the hopes that someone might locate him.

The 37-year-old Brown, described by his family as a former military reservist with the Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa, had apparently been acting out of character and evaded search crews.

"Patrick is exhibiting uncharacteristic symptoms of extreme paranoia of an unknown cause,

and is evading people," the post read. The page also indicated Brown's older brother, Kenneth, travelled to the Dominican Republic on Friday to drop off emergency supply kits filled with a letter from the family, bottled water, a compass, sunscreen and

an emergency blanket. On Saturday, after spending five days in the elements, Brown was located.

"We thank the people of the Dominican Republic for your prayers, kindness, support hospitality and warmth," read an updated statement on the Face-

book page attributed to Patrick's brother. "To those kind souls who no matter where you were in the world donated your time by sharing, tweeting, forwarding and passing along our messages, we say 'thank you!'"

JOE LOFARO/METRO

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CROWDFUNDING

Preschool seeks aid to move



Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

A Blackburn Hamlet preschool that has been around for four decades is crowdfunding for a new home.

The two portables that house the community hub have finally reached the end of their lifespan, says Krista McAlister, who is on the preschool's board of directors.

"If you talk to anyone in Blackburn Hamlet, they probably sent their kid there or their grandkid is going there," she said.

"Pretty much everyone knows about it."

The preschool is trying to raise \$7,500 on the crowdfunding website Go Fund Me.

As of Sunday evening, it had raised \$375 through donations from six people.

The east-end school caters to children between the ages of 18 months and five years.

The non-profit school operates on a unique co-op model that allows parents to occasionally come in and volunteer, and the board that runs the school is composed of parents.

"You end up knowing the families and it's kind of a community inside a community," said David McAlister, the school's current treasurer, who once went there himself.

They will need to relocate before September, and without a big budget for renovations, any new building will need to already have the necessities built in.

The funds raised online will go toward moving costs.

"They have a really strong sense of community there and the preschool's been there for 40 years," said Jody Mitic, the Ottawa city councillor who is trying to help find a new location.

"We have multi-generational families that have gone to it, so we're just trying to do our best to make sure the Blackburn preschool stays in the hamlet," he said.

\$7,500

The amount that the 40-year-old preschool in the hamlet of Blackburn is trying to raise to move to a new location using the crowdfunding website Go Fund Me. As of Sunday evening it had raised \$375 from six donors.

Beeping microwave leads to book for autistic kids

PUBLISHING

Sound would send autistic girl into a screaming fit



Lucy Scholey
Metro | Ottawa

Only Sera Lutes could push the buttons on the microwave.

If the five-year-old, who has autism, heard anyone else heat food, the beeping

sounds would send her into a screaming fit.

Looking for a way to help their oldest daughter, Jason and Lisa Lutes decided to write and illustrate a children's book.

Don't Push the Buttons on the Microwave: An Autism Social Story may be about the Kanata family's case, but it's meant to help all children on the autism spectrum.

"Lisa had the idea of writing it from the child's point of view, who has autism," said Jason Lutes.

"But I would illustrate it from the point of view of the parents. When you read it to



When you read it to someone with autism ... they would see the expressions of how it affects the parents or other people.

Jason Lutes, who illustrated book

someone with autism, on the spectrum, they would see the expressions of how it affects the parents or other people around them and we thought that would be a good way to help explain it to Sera."

Their daughter's teacher, who helped them work through the microwave problem last year, inspired the

couple's book.

The teacher wrote a little story with a Sharpie that included screaming faces crossed out, so this worked for her.

A book is a more positive teaching tool than talking down to a child, said Lisa Lutes.

"She likes it and she thinks

it helps other kids not get mad about the microwave," she said, with a smile. "She thinks everyone gets mad about the same things she does."

Sera has moved past the microwave. She's now into My Little Pony.

Chatty and wearing a black-and-white, star-spangled headband, she prefers to be called Princess Luna, a character on the television show.

Her two-year-old sister, Emma, joins her in trotting around on all four limbs.

The couple is working on a series of books for children with autism.



Emma Lutes, 2, left, and her sister Sera, 5, look at the book *Don't Push the Buttons on the Microwave: An Autism Social Story*, written and illustrated by their parents, Jason and Lisa Lutes. The Kanata couple are planning a series of books for children with autism. LUCY SCHOLEY/METRO

CANADIAN FAVES

Foodies savour both syrup and poutine

Sunday was a good day to be a patriotic foodie in the capital.

After a breakfast of local maple products at the Ottawa Farmers Market's Maple Festival, a poutine lunch at the Sparks Street Poutine Fest was only a short bus ride away.

"Every time we do events, we want to make sure it features

what's in season locally," said Evelyn Plettenberg-Smith, who works at the market.

"I don't think there's anyone who has tried maple syrup (who) didn't like it."

On offer at the market were two different rounds of tastings, featuring local bacon and apple pancakes, both smothered in syrup.

An equally Canadian meal was on offer downtown, where residents were snacking on fries, gravy and squeaky cheese curds.

The real question for the diehard gourmands: What's more Canadian, maple syrup or poutine?

"Maple syrup by just a sliver," said Victoria Wotten,

even though she and her two friends opted for Poutine Fest on Sunday.

"It's on our money and our flag, so I have to go with syrup," agreed Ikili Ilanga.

All three admitted, however, that they could easily imagine a poutine loonie included in Canada's future currency.

HAYLEY RITCHIE/METRO



UNIQUE TASTES

At the Maple Festival, guest chef Simon Bell was cooking up unique takes on the classic flavour of maple, including a maple lamb curry and a maple baklava with walnuts.

At Poutine Fest, chefs opted for a lobster bacon poutine complete with curds and gravy.



A Jordanian newspaper is reporting that Prime Minister Stephen Harper will host Jordan's King Abdullah II, one of his key allies in the fight on terrorism, in Ottawa in the coming days. RAAD ADAYLEH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

King of Jordan to visit Ottawa

POLITICS

Monarch is a key anti-terror ally to Canada

A Jordanian newspaper is reporting that Prime Minister Stephen Harper will host King Abdullah II, one of his key allies in the fight on terrorism, in Ottawa in the coming days.

The tiny Middle Eastern desert kingdom has been punching above its weight internationally as one of Canada's top allies in the war against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant.

Jordan has also borne a heavy load from Syria's civil war, now in its fifth year, because its hosts an estimated 625,000 refugees. It has a population of eight million.

Jordan is also one of the five countries joining Canada in conducting bombing missions against ISIL targets inside Syria, along with the United States, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Qatar.

The Jordan Times said Abdullah's official visit to Ottawa would be final leg of a three-country trip that started Wednesday at the Afro-Asia Summit in Indonesia.

Abdullah's second stop was to be San Francisco for business meetings, before coming to Ottawa to meet Harper and

"several other officials," the newspaper said.

The newspaper did not say exactly when Abdullah would arrive in Ottawa.

The Prime Minister's Office in Ottawa had no comment.

Harper visited Jordan in January 2014 and pledged \$105 million in aid to help the country cope with its influx of refugees.

Abdullah visited Ottawa in 2007, and since then, the monarch and Harper have developed what appears to be a warm relationship.

On Harper's 2014 visit, Abdullah praised Canada's global leadership, and said that he and Harper "as brothers" would work together to overcome the security challenges facing the world.

Harper heaped praise on Abdullah, telling him that Jordan was "one of our most important partners on all levels, in terms of commerce, in terms of development, in terms of security in this part of the world."

Last year, Abdullah's wife, Queen Rania, a development advocate, was one of Harper's marquee guests at his three-day international conference on maternal, newborn and child health, the prime minister's signature development initiative.

Abdullah is the son of the late King Hussein, who was widely regarded as one of Middle East's leading peacemakers.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ROADS

One dead, another injured in west-end crash

One man is dead and another seriously hurt after a crash in the city's west end early Sunday morning.

Police and paramedics responded to the intersection of Fallowfield and Eagleson roads just after 4 a.m.

Paramedics say both men are 23 years old.

One of the men was pronounced dead at the scene due to head trauma. The other was sent to hospital

in serious condition with a back injury.

Police closed roads in the area while they investigated the crash, but by Sunday afternoon they were reopened.

The investigation continues. Anyone with information about this collision is being asked to contact the Ottawa Police Collision Investigation Unit at 613-236-1222.

JOE LOFARO/METRO



A car involved in a fatal early-morning crash near the corner of Fallowfield and Eagleson roads is removed from the scene on Sunday. MIKE CARROCCETTO/FOR METRO

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Conservatives strategize to regain lost Quebec seats

POLITICS

Tory support increasing in parts of the province

When a popular Quebec mayor recently announced he was running for the federal Conservatives in this fall's election, the gathering included 20 of the region's 23 mayors.

That, says Alain Rayes, shows it's becoming less taboo in certain parts of Quebec to be publicly aligned with Stephen Harper's Tories.

"They took the risk of being seen next to (a Conservative) candidate," says Rayes, who has been mayor of Victoriaville since 2009.

The central Quebec town is about 150 kilometres east of Montreal and is in a riding won by the Bloc Québécois in 2011.

Support for the Tories is increasing in other historically small-c conservative parts of the province according to recent polls that indicate the party could outstrip by far its 2011 Quebec seat count of five. Rayes says the rise in Conservative fortunes in the province is evidence Quebecers "want a seat at the table."

Gerard Deltell, a well-known provincial politician and another Tory recruit, says the spike in support for the Conservatives is due to Harper's tax cuts — something Quebecers are not used to with provincial governments — and



Coalition Avenir Quebec (translated as: Coalition for Quebec's future) MNA Gerard Deltell, a well-known provincial politician, announced on April 7 that he's quitting the CAQ and joining the Conservative Party of Canada for the upcoming federal election. JACQUES BOISSINOT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

the party's performance on the economy and security.

"The Conservatives can recruit those guys who are the grass-roots candidates — those who are deep in the community" said Deltell, who recently left his job as a member of the legislature for the right-leaning Coalition

for Quebec's Future (Coalition Avenir Quebec).

Another big name to announce his candidacy for the Conservatives is Jean Pelletier, who for years ran Quebec City's winter carnival.

Rayes, Deltell and other party activists say the person responsible for attracting star candidates and explaining the Conservative message to Quebecers is Denis Lebel, Harper's lieutenant in the province.

"I feel it on the ground," Lebel says in an interview, admitting he is the party's Quebec "con-

ductor."

"The welcome I get is different (than prior years). Everything is possible."

Lebel drove around the province toward the end of last summer to meet voters and woo them back to the Tories.

He knows Quebecers often vote in waves. In 1984, Brian Mulroney surged to power with the help of victory in 58 out of 75 ridings in the province. He repeated the trick in 1988 with 63 seats.

The latest example in Quebec came in 2011 when the popular

+ POPULARITY

Current polls suggest the Tories are becoming more popular around the Quebec City region as well as in areas up to 200 kilometres north and south of the provincial capital. While the Conservatives believe the improved numbers are down to party policies they say are resonating across the province, some Quebecers say it's the individual candidate who is leading them to vote Tory.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jack Layton led the NDP to 59 seats in the province.

Before Lebel's 2014 summer tour, the Conservatives were polling roughly at 12 per cent in Quebec. Now, poll aggregator website ThreeHundredEight.com puts the Tories at about 21 per cent and indicates the party could win more than 20 seats.

The Tories currently have five Quebec MPs, including four cabinet ministers.

Harper's best tally in Quebec was at the 2006 and 2008 elections when he won 10 seats both times. The Conservatives were shut out of the province in 2004 when Paul Martin's Liberals won a minority.

But Antoine Tardif, the 25-year-old mayor of Daveluyville, near Victoriaville, says what's most important when voting Conservative is not Harper, but gaining influence. Quebecers, he believes, are increasingly looking to the Tories as the party that will give them the best chance to be in government. THE CANADIAN PRESS

TIM HORTONS

Café founder facing lawsuit

The billionaire co-founder of Tim Hortons is on the receiving end of a civil suit alleging he sexually assaulted his sometime-lover four years ago. The Canadian Press has learned.

The action against Ron Joyce, who claims he's the victim of a "blatant" extortion attempt, predates an unrelated but similar lawsuit filed earlier this year by another woman, who alleges his son, Steven Joyce, assaulted her aboard his yacht in Florida in an incident he says was consensual.

In 2011, according to previously unreported court documents, the woman, now 34, spent the night at Ron Joyce's home in Burlington, Ont., so she could drive him to a doctor's appointment in Barrie, Ont., the following day.

They went to bed separately and she slept alone in the guestroom, they say.

"At 6 a.m., she awoke to find (Joyce) in her bed naked with his hands down her pyjama bottoms with his fingers inserted into her vagina," her unproven claim states. "(She) screamed repeatedly for the defendant to get off of her."

The Toronto woman says she has audio recordings of conversations with him in which he admits to assaulting her, according to her statement of claim.

The claim filed in May 2013, which seeks \$7.5 million in damages, alleges the incident left her suffering anxiety attacks and with severe emotional loss.

Joyce, 84, an Order of Canada honouree and one of the country's richest people, admits going into her room that morning but says it was only to awaken her for his doctor's appointment.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quebecers are going to be tempted to vote Conservative ... We want to have a seat at the table to influence things.

Antoine Tardif, Daveluyville mayor, near Victoriaville

Bail for accused in Winnipeg locker-bodies case



Lawyer Greg Brodsky speaks to media after Andrea Giesbrecht was granted bail. JOHN WOODS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

A woman accused of hiding the remains of six infants in a Winnipeg storage locker was granted bail Friday.

Andrea Giesbrecht, 41, was ordered to keep the peace, report any pregnancies to authorities and live under the supervision of the Elizabeth Fry Society until her trial, tentatively set for next April. She will also have a strict curfew. Bail was set at \$15,000.

Giesbrecht's lawyer, Greg Brodsky, said outside court it's a much better arrangement than staying in jail.

"It's going to help her because she's got a supportive environment to live in," he told reporters.

"She's going to be attending Gamblers Anonymous; she's going to be attending counselling as directed by the supervisors who are going to be with her."

The case has been a mystery since it captured national headlines last October, when employees at the storage facil-

\$15K

Bail for the accused was set at \$15,000.

ity discovered what appeared to be human remains inside plastic containers and garbage bags and called police.

Brodsky has maintained from the beginning that there are no signs of foul play and no evidence that the infants had been born alive. He has also said the remains likely dated back at least a decade.

Evidence presented at Friday's bail hearing cannot be reported due to a court-ordered

publication ban.

Giesbrecht sat quietly but attentively at the hearing.

Brodsky said the reason the bail hearing came six months after Giesbrecht's arrest was because of the flow of evidence from the Crown.

"The disclosure didn't come as fast as I would like. When we had sufficient disclosure in order to make a bail application, we did."

Giesbrecht also faces unrelated fraud charges and a count of breaching a court order. THE CANADIAN PRESS



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Reflecting on 5 days of extreme poverty

CHALLENGE DAY 5

Metro reporter finishes with a new perspective



Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

"You didn't have to go through this."

That's roughly the sentence I heard over and over again over the past five days during which I lived on \$1.75 a day. Most reactions from family members, friends and workmates were supportive, but a few suggested that volunteering for extreme poverty was almost going overboard. Someone even said, in an email, that it was a "trite experiment," calling it offensive to those who are in a real struggle to make ends meet.

I don't necessarily concur with their views, but the detractors have a point. Every single day of those five, I never stopped feeling badly for people for whom extreme poverty is not a temporary state of affairs, but an indefinite, day-in-day-out reality. As hard as it was for me to find enough food, I still had the luxury of enjoying other things around me: I was working; when it was cold, I had enough clothes to keep warm; and I had a nice place to stay. Heck, I was even

LIVING BELOW THE LINE

The reporter: Gilbert Ngabo works for Metro in Toronto. He moved to Canada from Rwanda five years ago.

The mission: To live on just \$1.75 a day for five days — a challenge made to all Canadians by the Global Poverty Project, which says that's the daily budget of those who live below the poverty line.

The series: Day 5 of 5, reflecting on the meaning and purpose of the challenge

Follow Gilbert Ngabo on Twitter @dugilbo or at metronews.ca.

travelling back and forth to the office in a train. That's nowhere near real poverty.

That's the point that Dominique Mishio wants to drive home. Mishio, head of Canada's Global Poverty Project, which is leading the Live Below the Line campaign, said the challenge is not about making participants feel the real misery of living in extreme poverty, but about reflecting on poverty issues, increasing

awareness and raising money for the many organizations that work to alleviate poverty in different parts of the world.

Hundreds of Canadians have taken the challenge every year since 2013, and many are sure to take it again starting today, the 2015 challenge's official launch date. You might be wondering, after reading all this, whether it's worth giving it a try yourself. Yes, over the course of the five-day challenge you may well feel some of the ambivalence that I went through, and, yes, you may field some of the same doubts and objections that I heard.

But your personal effort, when added to that of thousands more across the globe, will have practical impact.

The campaign has raised more than \$250,000 over the past two years, and the money goes to fund fighting poverty in poor countries. Your donation will go toward efforts that could concretely improve — and perhaps even save — lives. Maybe a poor kid somewhere will be able to go to school. Maybe a hospital in a remote village will receive medical supplies. Maybe starving children in a refugee camp will get some nutritious food.

Taking the challenge of eating on less than two dollars a day created an image of poverty in me that will haunt me for a long time.

It's one thing to read numbers and reports on poverty issues;

it's quite another to live through the pain that those numbers attest to — even for a short while and even according to arbitrary conditions.

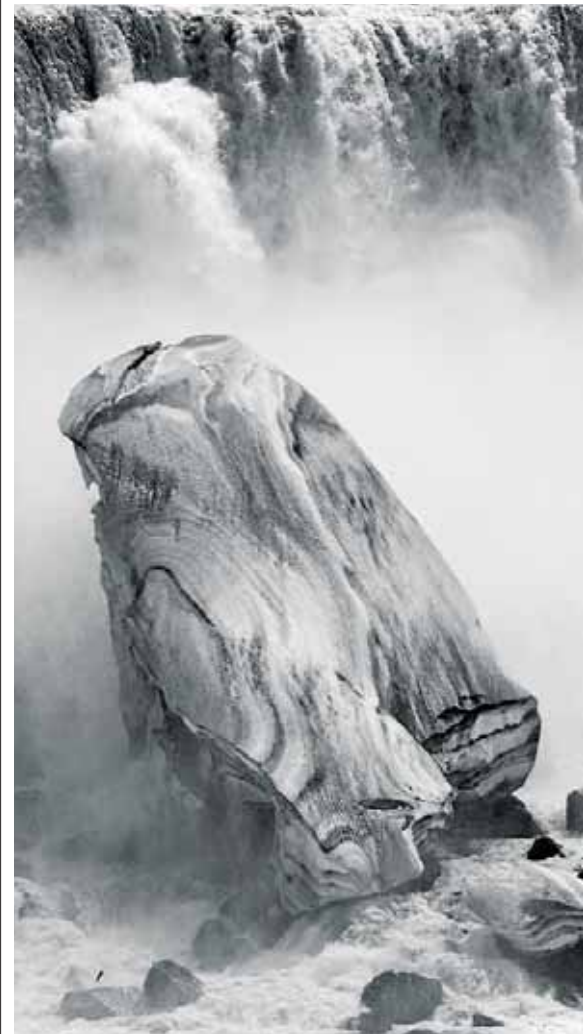
Over a billion people live in extreme poverty. That's an alarming number, but I bet hardly anyone in the rich world is losing sleep over it. Which is very sad.

No, I didn't have to go through this kind of experiment. But I am glad I did. It served as an eye-opener and changed my perspective on the choices I make every day. And I will donate what I can afford in order to help. You? You don't have to eat on \$1.75 a day, but you can help fight poverty and make it history.

+ CAMPAIGN

Some organizations partnering with Live Below the Line campaign:

- Crossroads International
- Oxfam Canada
- Raising the Village
- Canada Africa Community Health Alliance
- Canadian Hunger Foundation
- Make Poverty History – Canada
- Souls of the Feet
- ONEXONE
- Results Canada
- Tin Roof Global



NIAGARA FALLS SLOW EXPOSURE Layers of stained snow and ice are slowly being exposed through erosion by sun and water along the base of the American Falls as seen from Niagara Falls, Ont., on Saturday. The ice is all that remains after a cold winter that nearly delivered another rare historic freezing of the falls. PETER POWER/THE CANADIAN PRESS

CRIMINAL COURT

Killer dad still a danger: Prosecutor

A prosecutor's rare tactics to block a British Columbia man who murdered his three children from gaining some freedom is laying the groundwork for a possible test of the Conservative government's tough-on-crime agenda.

The Crown will be gathering an update on the mental state of Allan Schoenborn at the same time as she opposes his limited release being sought by doctors when his annual review resumes on Wednesday.

Schoenborn's horrific crime was pushed back into the national spotlight when Prime Minister Stephen Harper used the case in 2013 to bolster amendments to the Criminal Code.

Harper promised his legislation would ensure that people too dangerous to be

released would no longer be a threat to their victims. The bill passed last year.

Those watching the case believe prosecutors are manoeuvring to seek the bill's new high-risk designation for Schoenborn, which would be a first for the province and the most high-profile use of the new laws to date.

Schoenborn was declared not criminally responsible on account of a mental disorder, or NCRMD, for stabbing his daughter and smothering his two sons in their Merritt, B.C., home in April 2008. A B.C. Supreme Court judge found he was likely suffering from a psychotic state.

The B.C. Review Board is now considering whether supervised outings would aid his rehabilitation.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Allan Schoenborn is shown in this courtroom sketch during his trial in Kamloops, B.C., on Oct. 8, 2009. THE CANADIAN PRESS

SOCIAL SECURITY

Bureaucratic backlog a slow slog

A federal quick-response team set up to tackle the massive backlog of cases plaguing the social security tribunal doesn't appear to be moving all that quickly.

Between December and March 20, the federal government's so-called "spike unit" reviewed fewer than 3,000 appeals from Canadians seeking social security disability payments, the employment minister's office said last week in a reply to a written question from the NDP.

That is troubling considering that a backlog of roughly 11,000 cases had been slated for review since last fall, said New Democrat MP Jinny Sims.

"It's very, very clear that they have not allocated enough resources because they have managed to get through so few from the backlog," Sims said in an interview.

Former employment minis-

ter Jason Kenney, now the defence minister, established the 50-member spike unit in December and said at the time he expected the backlog to be eliminated by the end of the summer.

Of the 2,948 appeal files reviewed so far, 946 settlements have been offered to sick or injured Canadians who were previously denied CPP disability benefits. Some 428 people accepted the offers, the government said.

The backlog began accumulating after the federal government launched the social security tribunal in April 2013 with a goal of streamlining the appeals process and saving Canadian taxpayers \$25 million a year.

Kenney had said the backlog got out of hand largely because the new tribunal inherited more than 7,000 "unexpected" cases from the old social security review system. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Streets threaten beatings, burnings for homeless

HOMELESSNESS

Violence seldom reported but all too frequent without shelter

Tyler Dunlop says his moment of terror came after he passed out in the back parking lot of a building in Edson, Alta.

The 30-year-old homeless man says he awoke to the sound of taunts as he was being punched and kicked by four intoxicated youths.

"They ganged up on me and beat me within an inch of my life," he said of the beating in 2011, which he didn't report to police.

Dunlop's brush with violence offers a glimpse of the dangers faced by people living on the streets.

On Tuesday, two men in Nova Scotia will be sentenced after they pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in the slaying of Harley Lawrence, a 62-year-old homeless man set on fire as he slept in a bus shelter in Berwick

northwest of Halifax.

Daniel Wayne Surette, 27, and Kyle David James Fredericks, 26, admitted in an agreed statement of facts that they doused Lawrence in \$10 worth of gas before setting him on fire in October 2013.

Ian Burton says he almost experienced something similar when he was living on the streets in Halifax in the fall of that same year.

Burton, 30, says a youth came at him one night with a bottle of hair spray, flicking a lighter in an attempt to set him alight as he stood on a wharf downtown. He managed to flee but he says the episode served as a reminder of how dangerous it can be to live on the streets.

"The streets have a territory-like feel to it," Burton says.

Statistics Canada does not track murders, assaults and sexual assaults committed against homeless people. But people who live on the street and their advocates say they happen frequently.

In downtown Toronto, Joe Sallai says he's lived on the streets since he was 16 and has been



Joe Sallai, 45, panhandles on the corner of College and Yonge in Toronto last month.

AARON VINCENT ELKAIM/THE CANADIAN PRESS

kicked, hit and spat on. He has seen people hurl bricks at other panhandlers.

"I've seen them get pulled by their hair and stuff just because they were panning," he says. "Somebody wanted to be ignorant and walk by and do it. I've seen it happen quite a few times."

Life descends into a constant state of wariness, Sallai says.

"If not, they'll just catch you off guard and that'd be it."

Stephen Gaetz, director of the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness at York University in Toronto, says alarm bells should be going off for policy-makers

and police after a municipal study in Waterloo, Ont., last fall.

Of 281 people surveyed, 41 per cent of them said they were a victim of a violent attack since becoming homeless. Some of the violence involved homeless people beating each other up, he said.

Christina Murray, who was homeless but now has housing in Halifax, says violence can break out among people who are competing for privacy in shelters and space on sidewalks.

She says she knows firsthand what it's like to be assaulted in such a situation.

"I was at my friend's and she

was letting me stay there and another girl came in and she wanted to stay there," says Murray, 57.

"This fight started and she got a hold of my hair and pulled out a garbage pail full of my hair."

Dunlop says each outburst of anger and violence leaves lasting trauma, adding that he feels nausea and fights off panic attacks when a "loud or vexatious" youth approaches him.

"It is a fear behaviour, with people trying to unconsciously eliminate the threat of homelessness in their own lives by harming those who remind them of it," he says. THE CANADIAN PRESS

MURDERS

People being warned

Winnipeg's homeless and vulnerable community are being warned after police say at least one suspect "brutally killed" two men within the span of four hours over the weekend, and police aren't ruling out a third.

Sgt. John O'Donovan of the Winnipeg Police Service's Homicide Unit said both men, the first man in his late 40s and the second late 60s, died in back lanes about a block from each other in downtown Winnipeg.

"Both are victims from (the) vulnerable persons community," said Sgt. O'Donovan. "They're vulnerable in the way that they suffer from mental (illness) and substance abuse."

Sgt. O'Donovan said they were both killed between 9 p.m. Friday and 1 a.m. Saturday. He would not say how they died, but did release a picture of a man the said was in the area at the time and may have valuable information. They did not call the man a suspect, only a person of interest.

Sgt. O'Donovan said police were also not ruling out the possibility the beating death of a man in a bus shelter on Main Street earlier this month was also linked.

A local homeless woman, who asked to be identified only as 'Red,' said news of the violence didn't surprise her.

"You're always worried something will happen to you or your friends out here," she said. "The cops, they don't do nothing to help you, so we stick together," she added, gesturing to others.

Police said they are visiting local shelters to hand out information and warn the vulnerable population away from secluded areas.

Sgt. O'Donovan pleaded with citizens to come forward with information and to keep an eye on Winnipeg's most vulnerable.

ELISHA DACEY/METRO WINNIPEG

+ BACKGROUND

What can police and governments do?

Stephen Gaetz, a professor at York University's faculty of education and a researcher on homelessness, says Canada is approaching the problem in "a backward way."

"We ticket the homeless. We move them on," he says. "And what it does is push the homeless away from police."

Advocates have long been pushing for an approach

known as "Housing First," where the homeless are offered some choice in having their own place to stay, along with access to support services.

In the past, the homeless have had to earn their way into better housing, from shelters through to affordable housing units, by first accepting support and treatment.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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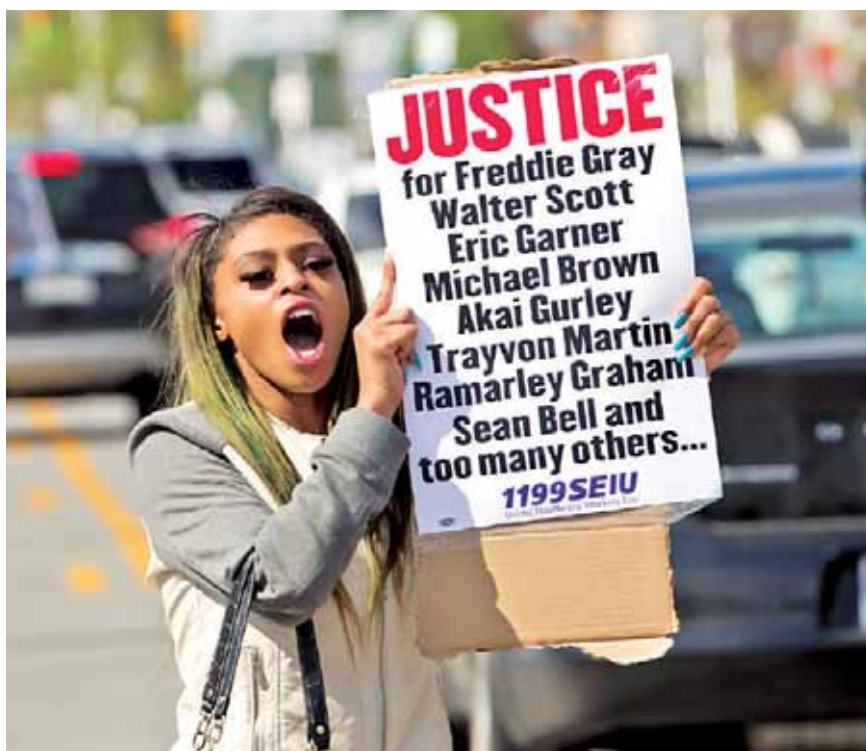
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BALTIMORE PROTESTS WAKE FOR FREDDIE GRAY AFTER NIGHT OF SCUFFLES

Caira Byrd holds support signs for Freddie Gray outside of Vaughn Greene Funeral Home, during his wake in Baltimore, Md., Sunday. Gray, 25, died from spinal injuries about a week after he was arrested and transported in a police van. Thousands of protesters took to the streets Saturday to demand answers after Deputy Commissioner Kevin Davis said Gray should have received medical attention at the spot where he was arrested, before he was put inside a police transport van handcuffed and without a seatbelt, a violation of the department's policy. JOSE LUIS MAGANA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Israel launches attack on border with Syria

AIR STRIKES

Military says militants with bomb were approaching

Israel's military said Sunday it launched an air strike on its border with Syria after spotting militants carrying a bomb in the Israeli-held Golan Heights.

The military said it carried out the strike after troops saw "a group of armed terrorists" approach the border with an explosive intended to target Israeli troops. It said that Israeli aircraft "targeted the squad, preventing the attack."

It did not offer any casualty figure for the strike. Iran's state-run, English-language satellite news channel Press TV later reported four people had been killed in an Israeli air strike in the Golan Heights, without elaborating.

On Twitter, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu sent messages commending the soldiers involved in the strike.

"Any attempt to harm our soldiers and civilians will be met with a determined response like the military action tonight that thwarted a terror attack," Netanyahu said.

No one immediately claimed responsibility of the attack launched from inside Syria, which has been in the grips of a civil war since 2011. Syrian state media did not immediately report on the strike.

Israel has tried to stay out of the war in Syria, but it has spilled into the country before. In September, the Israeli military shot down a Syrian fighter jet in airspace over the Golan Heights, which Israel captured from Syria in the 1967 Middle East war and later annexed in a move that has never been internationally recognized. In August, Israel shot

down a drone that came into the same airspace from Syria.

Israeli troops also have responded to occasional mortar fire from Syria. Israel says some of the attacks may have been accidental spillover, while others have been intentionally aimed at Israeli civilians and soldiers. It has always held Syria responsible for any cross-border fire.

While relations are hostile, the ruling Assad family in Syria has kept the border area with Israel quiet for most of the past 40 years. Israel is concerned that the possible ouster of embattled President Bashar Assad's ouster could push the country into the hands of Islamic State extremists or al-Qaida linked militants, or plunge the region further into sectarian warfare.

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Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu



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SHERPAS AFFECTED

Avalanche devastates Mount Everest camp

Mountaineers, guides and porters streamed from Mount Everest base camp on Sunday in the wake of a deadly earthquake-triggered avalanche that obliterated parts of the rocky village of nylon tents. Some warned that dozens of people may still be missing.

The worst injured were ferried out in helicopters, while those remaining at base camp endured a series of powerful aftershocks, some of which caused smaller but still terrifying avalanches in the surrounding mountains.

The avalanche on Saturday, set off by the massive earthquake that struck Nepal, left at least 18 people dead and dozens more injured.

But as the first stunned survivors of the avalanche reached Kathmandu, Nepal's capital, they said that dozens of people may still be missing and were almost certainly dead.

"The snow swept away many tents and people," said Gyelu Sherpa, a guide among the first group of 15 injured survivors to

reach Kathmandu.

The 15, most of them Sherpa guides or support staff working on Everest, flew from Lukla, a small airstrip not far from Everest. None were believed to be facing life-threatening injuries.

Bhim Bahadur Khatri, 35, a cook and a Sherpa, was preparing food in a meal tent when the avalanche struck.

"We all rushed out to the open and the next moment a huge wall of snow just piled on me," he said. "I managed to dig out of what could easily have been my grave. I wiggled and used my hands as claws to dig as much as I could. I was suffocating, I could not breathe."

When he finally dug his way out, he was surrounded by devastation. Part of the base camp village was gone.

The magnitude-7.8 quake struck at around noon Saturday — just over a year after the deadliest avalanche on record hit Everest, killing 16 Sherpa guides on April 18, 2014.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Nepalese rest inside a van where they have taken shelter as it is considered safer in cars than inside houses due to repeated aftershocks in Kathmandu, Nepal, on Sunday. BIKRAM RAI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Aftershocks terrify earthquake survivors

CRISIS

'We don't feel safe at all,' says a Nepalese man

Shell-shocked and sleeping in the streets, tens of thousands of Nepalese braced against terrifying aftershocks Sunday while digging for survivors in the devastation wrought a day earlier by a massive earthquake that ripped across this Himalayan nation and killed more than 2,500 people.

Acrid, white smoke rose above the nation's most revered Hindu temple, where dozens of bodies were being cremated at any given time.

Aid groups received the first word from remote mountain villages — reports that suggested

many communities perched on mountainsides were devastated or struggling to cope.

Landslides hindered rescue teams that tried to use mountain trails to reach those in need, said Prakash Subedi, chief district official in the Gorkha region, where the quake was centred.

"Villages like this are routinely affected by landslides, and it's not uncommon for entire villages of 200, 300, up to 1,000 people to be completely buried by rock falls," said Matt Darvas, a member of the aid group World Vision. "It will likely be helicopter access only."

Saturday's magnitude-7.8 earthquake spread horror from Kathmandu to small villages and to the slopes of Mount Everest, triggering an avalanche that buried part of the base camp packed with foreign climbers.

At least 18 people died there and 61 were injured.

With people fearing more quakes, tens of thousands spent the day crowding in the streets and the night sleeping in parks or on a golf course.

Crows screeched as the ground shook with the worst of the aftershocks — magnitude-6.7.

"We don't feel safe at all. There have been so many aftershocks. It doesn't stop," said Rajendra Dhungana, 34, who spent the day with his niece's family for her cremation at the Pashuputi Nath Temple in Kathmandu. "I've watched hundreds of bodies burn. ... Nepal should learn a lesson from this. They should realize proper buildings should be built."

By late Sunday, the aftershocks appeared to be weakening. A

+ CASUALTIES

Nepal authorities said Sunday that at least 2,430 people died in that country alone, not including the 18 dead in the Mount Everest avalanche. Another 61 people died from the quake in India and a few in other neighbouring countries.

At least 1,152 people died in Kathmandu, and the number of injured nationwide was upward of 5,900. Three policemen died during a rescue effort in Kathmandu, a police spokesman said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

magnitude-5.3 quake shook an area about 30 miles east of Kathmandu. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Injured Sherpa guides sit inside a bus after they were evacuated from Mount Everest Base Camp, in Kathmandu, Nepal, on Sunday. BIKRAM RAI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Things to know

The death toll climbed and aftershocks continued a day after a powerful earthquake struck the Nepal region, setting off an urgent aid response.

1 What happened?

U.S. Geological Survey seismologist Paul Earle said the quake happened on what is known as a "thrust fault." That describes the situation when one piece of the Earth's crust is moving beneath another piece.

In this case, it's the Indian plate that is moving north at 45 millimetres a year under the Eurasian plate to the north, Earle said.

"This is what builds the Himalayan mountain range," Earle said.

2 Aid efforts:

With Kathmandu's airport reopened Sunday, the first aid flights began delivering

supplies. The first to respond were Nepal's neighbours India, China and Pakistan.

Indian air force planes landed with 43 tons of relief material, including tents and food, and nearly 200 rescuers, India's External Affairs Ministry spokesman Vikas Swarup said.

The planes were returning to New Delhi with Indian nationals stranded in Kathmandu. More aid flights were planned for Sunday.

3 Nepal's preparation:

Nepal is a relatively poor country without extensive resources despite its rich cultural heritage and spectacular mountain scenery. It has been plagued by instability in recent years, and general strikes have recently brought chaotic scenes to Kathmandu.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

No time to lose: Global response gears up

There is still time to save lives — that's why governments and aid agencies Sunday rushed doctors, volunteers and equipment to Nepal without waiting for the dust to settle.

UN spokeswoman Orla Fagan, who is heading to Nepal, said preventing the spread of disease is one of the most important tasks facing aid workers who are arriving.

"There are 14 international medical teams on the way and either 14 or 15 international search-and-rescue teams on the way," she said. "They need to get

in as soon as possible."

Substantial hurdles remain, but there were hopeful signs as Kathmandu's international airport reopened after Saturday's crushing earthquake, and some aid vehicles were able to travel overland from India to the stricken Nepalese city of Pokhara.

"That means supplies could potentially come in overland from India. That is a positive sign," said Ben Pickering, Save the Children's humanitarian adviser in Britain. "The airport opening is a small miracle."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

+ HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

UNICEF said Sunday that at least 940,000 children in areas affected by the earthquake are in "urgent need" of humanitarian assistance. UNICEF staff reported dwindling water supplies, power shortages and communications breakdown.

There is still a dearth of information about conditions at the epicentre of the earthquake, Pickering said,

and it is not clear which roads are passable.

International Search and Rescue Germany said a team of 52 relief workers including doctors, experts trained in searching for people buried under rubble and several dog squads are flying Sunday. The team will bring a mobile medical treatment centre.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UNITED KINGDOM

PM defends royal couple's right to choose private over public hospital for baby birth

With Britain's general election fast approaching, almost anything can become political — even Prince William and his wife Kate's choice of private medical care for the upcoming birth of their second child.

Prime Minister David Cameron on Sunday defended the royal couple's choice of private treatment over public care offered by the National Health Service.

Asked on TV if the royal couple's decision was disappointing, Cameron said he supports peoples' right to choose treatment options. He did praise the NHS, which is a source of national pride for many Britons.

"The NHS is superb and I've seen that in my own life in so many different ways," he said. "But I believe in choice. I believe in people being able to do what

they want to do." He said he is praying for a safe delivery of the royal baby.

The NHS, founded in 1948, has become a political issue during the hard fought campaign, with Cameron's opponents saying he wouldn't adequately fund it in the coming years if voters return him to 10 Downing Street on May 7.

Britain has a hybrid system: Those with the financial resources

to pay for private medical care have the option of seeking treatment under the NHS, which is often free of charge, or through private doctors and clinics.

Patients who choose private care can more easily schedule medical procedures at a time of their choosing and can often avoid crowded hospital wards by paying for private or semi-private rooms. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Security guards walk next to one of the Meroe pyramids, in al-Bagrawiya, 200 kilometres north of Khartoum, Sudan, earlier this month. MOSA'AB ELSHAMY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pyramids go unvisited

SUDAN

Tourism devastated by economic sanctions

The small, steep pyramids rising up from the desert hills of northern Sudan resemble those in neighbouring Egypt, but unlike the famed pyramids of Giza, the Sudanese site is largely deserted.

The pyramids at Meroe, some 200 kilometres north of Sudan's capital, Khartoum, are rarely visited despite being a UNESCO World Heritage site like those in Egypt. Sanctions against the government of longtime President Omar al-Bashir over Sudan's long-running internal conflicts limit its access to foreign aid and donations, while also hampering tourism.

The site, known as the Island of Meroe because an ancient, long-dried river ran around it, once served as the principle residence of the rulers of the Kush kingdom, known as the Black Pharaohs. Their pyramids,

ranging from 6 to 30 metres tall, were built between 720 and 300 B.C. The entrances usually face east to greet the rising sun.

The pyramids bear decorative elements inspired by Pharaonic Egypt, Greece and Rome, according to UNESCO, making them priceless relics. However, overeager archaeologists in the 19th century tore off the golden tips of some pyramids and reduced some to rubble, said Abdel-Rahman Omar, the head of the National Museum of Sudan in Khartoum.

On a recent day, a few tourists and white camels roamed the site, watched by a handful of security guards. Sudan's tourism industry has been devastated by economic sanctions imposed over the conflicts in Darfur and other regions. Al-Bashir's government, which came to power following a bloodless Islamist coup in 1989, has struggled to care for its antiquities.

Qatar has pledged \$135 million to renovate and support Sudan's antiquities in the last few years. But Omar said Sudan still receives just 15,000 tourists per year.

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IN BRIEF

Five people missing after boats capsize off Alabama

U.S. Coast Guard crews continued searching Sunday for five people missing in the water after recovering two bodies following a powerful storm that capsized several sailboats participating in a regatta near Mobile Bay, Alabama.

One body was discovered Saturday and another

was found on Sunday morning, Major Steve Thompson, director of the Alabama Department of Public Safety's Marine Patrol Division, said at a press conference in Dauphin Island.

Authorities said crews are using boats and planes to search the bay, including its centre and areas closer to Dauphin Island.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Secret behind Chanel N°5 at risk

COMOROS

Slew of factors threatening production of fragrant flower

In a dense thicket in the middle of the impoverished Indian Ocean archipelago of the Comoros, Ibrahim Bacar is plucking tiny ylang ylang flowers.

The barely visible yellow blossoms with an intoxicating aroma contain the oil that provides the distinctive scent in Chanel N°5, one of the world's best-selling fragrances.

Ylang ylang is also a key ingredient of many other perfumes and Comoros is the world's top producer of the essential oil extracted from the flower — a commodity that makes up one-tenth of the archipelago's total export revenues. But decades of under-investment in aging plantations, an exodus of flower gatherers willing to do the painstaking work and deforestation are threatening production of the flower.

"Despite the economic im-

portance of the essential oil of ylang ylang, it is surprising that there is no improvement program for the plant," wrote Celine Benini, an agriculture specialist at Belgium's Liege University, in a study.

Each year, Comoros produces between 30 and 40 tonnes of the essential oil mainly on the island of Anjouan, home to 350 distilleries.

Economists believe that the Comoros could extract more from ylang ylang if the sector was given an overhaul. In 2013 and 2014, the country exported just \$1.6 million US worth of the essential oil a year.

"It is modest," said the economist Nour Allah Alnour Assik, adding that remittances sent by Comorans living abroad bring more in revenues.

Ibrahim Ahamada, an economist at the International Monetary Fund (IMF), said the flower remains "a potential source of income and significant currency for the country" provided there is "serious reorganization of the sector".

Bacar, who inherited his eight hectare plot from his father, wants to move up the value



Comoros is the world's top producer of the essential oil, extracted from the ylang ylang flower, that gives Chanel N°5 perfume its distinct fragrance. STAN HONDA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

chain by expanding his business from just planting ylang ylang trees to also distilling the essential oil. But with his limited takings, saving up to buy a distillery is taking time.

He sells one kilogram of the

six-petalled flowers that bloom all year for less than a dollar. "If you supply 200 kilos of flowers, it should equal the price of a cow — 1,500 euros (\$1,600 US), not just 200 euros (\$215 US)," said Bacar.

"I know they make a lot with the oils, but I don't have a choice. I take the little they give me," he said.

There are also few people willing to take on the backbreaking tasks of pruning the plants

and picking between 25 to 40 kilograms of flowers a day in high season. "When I explain the work to young people, they think I'm crazy because we work so hard to produce so little," said Bacar. AFP

+ YLANG YLANG

Flower of flowers

Ylang ylang originated in the Philippines and means "flower of flowers" in the local Tagalog language. The French introduced the tree on the island of Reunion in the 1700s and in the early 1900s its cultivation spread to the nearby islands of Comoros and Madagascar. In 1921 Coco Chanel wanted a flower that captured "the scent of a woman". The solution was the ylang ylang, which led to the creation of N°5. As the N°5 contains a significant amount of the ylang ylang oil, the company became one of the biggest customers for the precious produce.

ENTERPRISE

Space cowboys reach for stars

An isolated edge of vast West Texas is home to a highly secretive part of the 21st-century space race, one of two being directed in the Lone Star State by Internet billionaires whose personalities and corporate strategies seem worlds apart.

The presence of Blue Origin, LLC, the brainchild of Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, barely registers in nearby Van Horn, a way station along Interstate 10, a full decade after he began buying land in one of Texas' largest and most remote counties.

Few visitors are allowed beyond the No Trespassing sign and a remote-controlled gate and into the desert and mountain environment reminiscent of the Air Force's renowned Area 51 in Nevada. The privileged who do get inside decline to describe what they've seen, typically citing confidentiality agreements.

"No one gets in other than employees," says Robert Morales, editor of the weekly Van Horn Advocate newspaper.

At the opposite end — of Texas and the competition — is the highly visible SpaceX venture, led by PayPal co-founder and electric carmaker Elon Musk. His company contracts with NASA to resupply the International Space Station and is building a launch site



Billionaire space entrepreneurs Jeff Bezos, left, and Elon Musk, have put their vast fortunes toward building a new era of commercial space operations. GETTY IMAGES

about 950 kilometres from Van Horn, on the southernmost Texas Gulf coast, with the much-publicized goal of sending humans to Mars.

SpaceX and Blue Origin are among several U.S. companies engaged in the private space business. Both men have seemingly unlimited resources — Bezos' wealth is estimated at nearly \$35 billion US, Musk's at \$12 billion US — and lofty aspirations: launching a new era of commercial space operations, in part by cutting costs through reusable rockets.

Over the last decade, Bezos, 51, has bought at least seven ranches, totalling 1,900 square miles, near the Texas-New Mexico border and Guadalupe Mountains National Park.

Earlier this month, Bezos announced his company's new hydrogen rocket engine, designed for suborbital missions, had completed hundreds of tests at the West Texas site, adding, "soon we'll put it to the ultimate test of flight." That could come late this year.

A more powerful engine for orbital flights, fuelled by liquid oxygen and liquid natural gas, is being developed with United Launch Alliance, a venture of aerospace veterans Boeing Co. and Lockheed Martin Corp.

SpaceX already has a rocket plant near Waco. With more than \$15 million in state incentives, it's also building a launch site at Boca Chica Beach, near Brownsville.

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ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

Brutal honesty is the best policy if we want to nurture our artists

There's something awry in the way we treats artists in Canada.

It's not that we're too stingy with our love — it's that we're disingenuous.

Yes, we have some great critics (John Doyle for one), and it's culturally OK to hate Nickleback.

But most mainstream media coverage of writers, musicians, painters, sculptors or filmmakers tells me only two things: where that person was born; and why they, and their work, are wonderful.

It would be fine if that were always the truth. But it's not. Art criticism, according to Toronto writer and curator Amy Fung, is mostly "adver-torial fluff."

Calling that approach "a PR department's job," not journalism's, Michael Lista has joined with fellow journalist Jason Guriel to launch Partisan, an online magazine of "trenchant" art and culture reviews intended as a tonic for the limp discussions we usually see in this country.

Guriel, in a 2013 interview, told how a major national newspaper pulled a review of Margaret Atwood's poetry simply because it was tough. Poets (which both men are) in particular are treated like the "asthmatic kids on the playground," Lista told me.

Culture journalists don't lack opinions, he argued, they're just saying them in private. That saves them

from professional blowback and potential fallout with the subjects of their critiques, a concern when the arts scene in this country, to quote a friend, is a "sock drawer."

"It's so small, it gets so intermingled, that you don't want to burn any bridges," said the friend, a musician who's toured with some of Canada's trendiest bands.

There's also the "whole CRTC-sponsored Cancon thing," Lista said, "where any Canadian culture needs to be nurtured like a delicate little flame."

That was certainly true of Jian Ghomeshi, celebrated for his gushing, groveling interviews which put every Q guest on a pedestal regardless of merit. Ironic, given that his most famous interview (with Billy Bob Thornton) featured a rare bit of controversy.

Canadian media tends to celebrate any whiff of Canadian success, equating it with talent.

I wondered whether Shad would break rank during his first week as host of Q. But I doubt it — it's his niceness that stood out.

That leaves the rest of us with middling, condescending public debate, and Canadian artists denied the benefits of sharp, smart criticism.

The best thing an artist can hear isn't pat compliments. It's honesty.

MYMETRO

Heather Gautreau, 45, Halifax, N.S.

Where are you coming from?

I'm on my lunch. I work down at George Street at the Bank of Montreal.

Tell me about your commuter routine.

About a half-hour. I take the bus or ferry over from Dartmouth.

Where is the one place someone new should go in the city:

The Public Gardens or the waterfront.

What are you binge-watching right now?

Big Brother Canada.

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Homeless need human contact as well as homes

COLLINS' CAPITAL

Steve Collins



I don't know much about the woman who hit me up for change outside Hartman's Saturday night.

Maybe she was homeless, or maybe just badly off enough that she needed to beg strangers for money. She said she needed a dollar to make two phone calls.

The price of a local pay phone call doubled from 25 to 50 cents in 2007. Bell Canada applied to double that again in 2012 to a dollar, citing declining use (who, after all, doesn't have their own phone these days?) and hence revenues, but was rebuffed by the CRTC. The provincial budget this week included a \$25 increase for Ontario Works recipients — the equivalent of 50 phone calls. I had a handful of quarters

and dimes, and she got it — a quick transaction, my change for her "God Bless" — before we went our separate ways. I hope it helped, but I didn't ask her name or who she needed to call. Shamefully, when I'm asked for help, I often don't even make eye contact.

Volunteers with the Alliance to End Homelessness spent a few days last week asking questions, surveying 461 homeless people about their situations. These were not just chats. The Alliance wants to find these people homes.

"It's not a count, it's not a research project and it's not an awareness raiser," Alliance president and CEO Tim Richter said this week as he presented early results. "This was a large-scale community-wide housing intervention. The surveys allow us to know everybody by name, understand their needs and begin the housing process." The average person they

talked to had been homeless for 3.7 years. Everyone told their own story, but there were common threads: 28 per cent had been in foster care at some point in their lives, and 54 per cent reported "tri-morbidity," the awful-as-it-sounds triple whammy of physical and mental health issues plus a substance abuse problem.

The survey's an early step in a new 20,000 Homes Campaign, named for the number of people they want to see in stable housing across the country by Canada Day 2018. An estimated 35,000 Canadians are homeless on any given night.

Such good intentions and commitments abound, of course. A Home For Everyone, the city's 10-year plan, proposes, for \$14 million a year in rent supplements, housing allowances, employment programs and other supports, to house 250 this year and to end homelessness here by 2024. I find it hard to imagine

homelessness ending in this city. It just seems like such a stubborn, hard fact of life, and we've had plenty of announcements that its days were numbered.

Look back at any given year — say 2004, when the federal budget included \$17 million for Ottawa as part of the National Homelessness Initiative, another program with the stated intent of, yup, ending homelessness.

I'm happy to lean on the optimism of others, though, and the Alliance's survey backs up their high hopes with data on the people they're trying to help.

But more important than any derived statistic, perhaps, is the act of looking them in the eye and asking questions, of treating them like people.

Steve Collins lives in Ottawa. He might also be the guy behind you on the bus, pretending not to notice you're reading this. Act casual.

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PHILOSOPHER CAT
by Jason Logan





Bruce Jenner hailed for 'bravery'

ABC INTERVIEW

Reaction pours in as reality TV star comes out as transgender

U.S. Olympic champion turned reality TV star Bruce Jenner won praise over the weekend from celebrities and activists for revealing he is transitioning from male to female, ending long-running speculation he identifies as a woman.

In a highly anticipated, two-hour television interview aired Friday — hailed by transgender rights' campaigners and his own Kardashian-linked family — the 65-year-old said he had wrestled with his sexual identity since he was a kid.

"I've always been confused about my gender identity since I was this big," he told ABC's celebrity interviewer Diane Sawyer.

"Here I am, stuck — and I hate the word — (a) girl stuck in a guy's body ... As of now I have all the male parts and all that kind of stuff."

But asked point blank if he was a woman, Jenner said: "Yes. For all intents and purposes, I'm a woman."

Speculation that the actor, race-car enthusiast and 1976 Montreal Summer Olympics decathlon gold medalist was undergoing a sex change has been rich fodder for supermarket tabloids for months.

Supposed telltale signs, based on paparazzi photos from the streets of Los Angeles, include



In a two-hour interview aired Friday, Bruce Jenner told ABC's Diane Sawyer that he is transitioning from male to female. HANDOUT

shaved limbs, long hair worn in a ponytail and what appears to be a sports bra under a T-shirt.

Jenner said he identifies himself as "her," but not by a specific name. The ABC interviewer used "he" and "him" throughout, without causing any apparent discomfort for the former Olympian.

He stressed the difference between gender identity and sexuality.

"I am not gay," Jenner said. "I am, as far as I know, heterosexual. I've always been with a woman, raising kids."

Just before making the long-expected announcement, Jenner symbolically let his hair down.

972,000

Nielsen Social estimated that there were 972,000 tweets sent on Friday night alone about the Jenner interview.

"Let's take the damn ponytail out," he told Sawyer, smiling.

Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) rights group GLAAD welcomed Jenner's announcement.

"Though Jenner's journey is one that is deeply personal, it is also one that will impact and

inspire countless people around the world," GLAAD head Sarah Kate Ellis said.

GLAAD also noted that media at this time should continue to refer to Jenner by his current name and with male pronouns to be respectful of his wishes, as he has not requested that a new name or pronoun be used.

Thrice-married Jenner became an American sports hero when he set a world record with his Montreal decathlon victory.

He again became a household name through his marriage to the former Kris Kardashian and the TV series Keeping Up with the Kardashians, in which he appeared as the sometimes

bemused stepfather of her daughters Kourtney, Kim and Khloé. The couple, who have two daughters of their own, obtained a divorce in December — although he has been seen still wearing a wedding ring.

National Center for Transgender Equality advocacy group executive director Mara Keisling called Jenner's declaration "one of the most profound displays of bravery and courage I've seen."

Jenner, clearly relieved to have finally come clean, said: "I'm saying goodbye to people's perceptions of me and who I am."

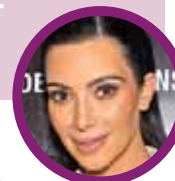
"I'm not saying goodbye to me because this has always been me." AFP

"Not only was I able to call him my husband for 25 years and father of my children, I am now able to call him my hero."



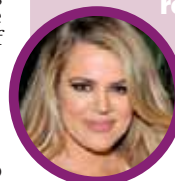
Kris Jenner

"Love is the courage to live the truest, best version of yourself. Bruce is love. I love you Bruce. #Proud-Daughter."



Kim Kardashian

"Bruzer, I'm soooo proud of you! Dads really are heroes."



Khloé Kardashian

GETTY IMAGES



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Are you still trying to keep up with the Joneses?

FINANCES

Stop looking at what others have and focus on yourself

MONEY MATTERS

Gail Vaz-Oxlade
gailvazoxlade.com



Do you find yourself thinking about what your sister has that you don't? Or what kind of car your friend drives that you can't afford? Or how "unfair" it is that your neigh-

bours travel every year when you haven't been able to scrounge up the money for the trip you've been promising yourself?

Remember the saying, "Keeping up with the Joneses"? It was used to denote our desire to keep pace with the spending of our neighbours. It was beautifully captured in a cartoon I once saw. A husband and wife are gardening together. The wife looks up to see a neighbour pulling into her driveway and says to her husband, "Damn, Shelly and Mike got a new car. And we were almost debt free!"

A lot of people create this problem for themselves. They imagine that others' lives are so much better and then they

look for evidence to support their supposition. Ten years ago, before the avalanche of reality TV hit the airwaves, the Joneses were the people next door. Now people are feeling the push to keep up with the likes of movie stars and TV personalities who make gobs of money airing their lives to the nation and shopping as a hobby.

People who watch a lot of TV, read flashy magazines and walk the malls feel like they're always missing something because they have come to believe that "everyone else has one so I want one, too."

But if everyone else is going into debt to have the lifestyle you crave, then what you're craving isn't real; it's smoke and mirrors. Playing the keeping-up-with-the-Joneses game is stupid at the best of times, but it's suicidal if you're doing it on credit.

Just look at the size of the houses we're living in now compared to those in which our parents were raised. Back then people were having more kids but living in houses far smaller than we're willing to settle for today.

And only the rich and famous could afford granite counters and marble floors. Now we want a room for every child, plus a living room, family room, media

room, and kids' playroom. As our expectations have gone up, our ability to pay has been seriously challenged. While we like to castigate the younger generation "giving into peer pressure," it's not just a problem of youth and immaturity. Age has little to do with it. Do you worry about being judged by others? Do you spend more time on impressing others than on managing your money?

The big joke, of course, is that while you're busy envying Jane, Jane's probably envying Michael, who in turn is envying you. Yup, it's human nature to think that what other people have is better.

That's "the grass is greener" syndrome. But if you can change what you're thinking about — stop focusing on the other and focus instead on yourself — you can change the feelings.

When you see people who seem to satisfy their every whim, don't even attempt to keep up. If you're wondering how they paid for it all, they very well may not have.

Instead they've made their purchases on credit cards where only the minimum payment is made, they've financed with lines of credit, and they've consolidated their consumer debt to a mortgage yet one more time. It's easy to spot the stuff people buy; the debt they're dragging along usually can't be seen.

The next time envy niggles at you and the thought, "I wish I could, too," goes through your head, think about what else you don't have, along with the new and shiny: the debt. If you're smart enough to know what's really important, if you are clear about your values and make your purchases based on what's important to you, you've got no dirty little secrets to hide. You're living in the light. And it feels good, doesn't it?

STRATEGY

Avoid confab fatigue with these meeting tips

OFFICE RELATIONS

Eleni Deacon



Long meetings. Pointless meetings. Boring meetings. Meetings that are actually lectures. Meetings that take you away from your desk for hours of abstract chit-chat when you have a scroll-length to-do list you could be tackling.

Sound familiar?

While group communication is an essential component of effective business, many employees complain that their most lethal productivity killer isn't social media or noisy colleagues — it's meetings.

Or rather, meeting after meeting after meeting.

There's a simple way managers can take the weight off meeting overload: Schedule fewer of them.

Meetings should be a time to share updates, get on the same page, and develop actionable strategies.

They should not be a time for long-winded speeches or circular bickering.

Before scheduling a meeting, ask: Why are we doing this and does it require group attendance?

If the answer is vague, hit X on your invite. In many cases, it can be more efficient to contact one person for a direct project update than mobilize an entire team for a not-entirely-necessary gathering.

Another approach is to trade all-staff affairs for speedy, targeted powwows.

While certain types of meetings — strategic planning, client

consultations — may require a more substantive time commitment, just-another-day status reports should not dismantle your afternoon.

Try cutting the time you book for meetings in half — you may find you get the same amount done.

Stand-up meetings are also a fail-proof — if intentionally uncomfortable — way to keep meetings from falling flat.

The concept is self-explanatory: These chats are chair-free.

Instead, team members must deliver their debriefs while standing on two feet. Not only does this make it difficult to tune out — it also means everyone wants to finish the process as quickly as possible.

Regardless of the length or frequency of your meet-ups, they should be deliberately planned and efficiently run. Set an agenda, and delegate one individual to moderate the action. A lot of the frustration

surrounding meetings comes not only from the fact of having to be there, but also from the digressive and disorganized way that they're managed.

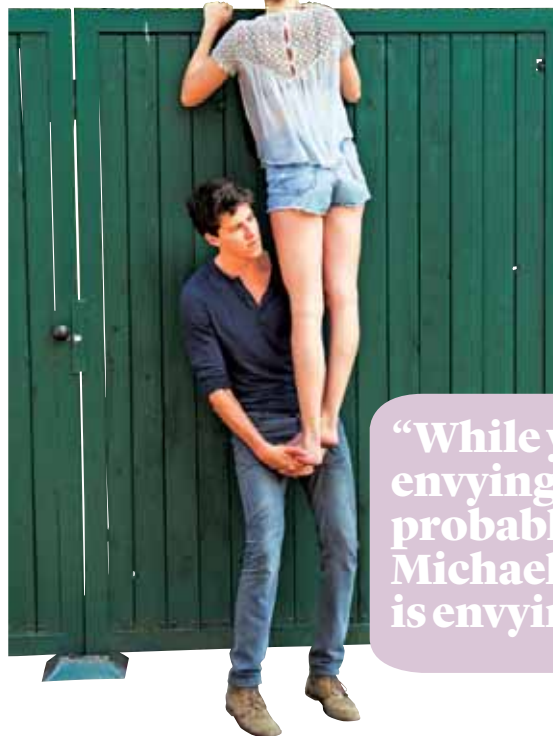
Commit to a time frame and keep the discussion on point — this will keep attendees from getting annoyed.

While meetings are obligatory, time-wasting meetings are not.

To curb confab fatigue, set meetings that have clear objectives and on-task leadership. And under no circumstances book a meeting to figure out a time to have another meeting about how to have better meetings.

“

Under no circumstances book a meeting to figure out a time to have another meeting about how to have better meetings



“While you're busy envying Jane, Jane's probably envying Michael, who in turn is envying you.”

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WORK & TECH

New app cleans social media

Ever scrolled back on your Facebook, Twitter or Instagram feed and cringed? Or have you ever frantically scrambled through all of your social media posts while applying to a new job?

A new app called Clear can help you with that.

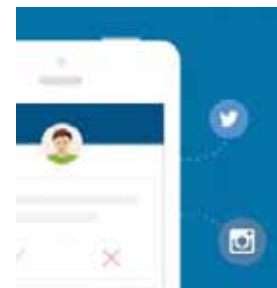
Clear will analyze your social media profiles and give you a score on the potential liability of your social media presence. It also flags all of your potentially embarrassing tweets or Facebook posts — posts with curse words or sexually or racially charged words. Some flagged words in-

clude “black” or “gay.”

Founder Ethan Czahor has a very personal reason for creating the app: he lost his job as Jeb Bush's CTO because of offensive tweets.

“Unfortunately, my Twitter feed was unearthed, spun completely out of context to make me appear as someone I am certainly not, and I lost my job. I created Clear to make sure situations like mine never happen to anyone ever again.”

There are currently more than 1,000 people on the wait list for the app. ANDREA PARK/METRO NEW YORK



Clear analyzes your social media profiles and flags potentially offensive posts.
CONTRIBUTED

Habs send Sens into summer

NHL PLAYOFFS
Ottawa offence runs dry in hard-fought Game 6 loss

Brendan Gallagher scored in the first period and Carey Price made 43 saves as the Montreal Canadiens defeated the Ottawa Senators 2-0 to advance to the second round of the NHL play-offs on Sunday night.

Montreal won the best-of-seven series 4-2, but lost two in a row after taking a 3-0 series lead.

Max Pacioretty sealed the win with an empty-net goal with one second remaining.

Price, nominated for the Vezina Trophy as the league's top goalie and perhaps a candidate for most valuable player, rebounded after allowing five goals in Game 5 with a masterful effort as Ottawa outshot the Canadiens 43-20.

Montreal, which reached the Eastern Conference final last spring, is in the second round for a second year in a row for the first time since 1992 and 1993.

After controlling the early going, the Canadiens got the first goal for the first time in the series when Gallagher took a high Greg Pateryn shot off his body and batted it past Craig Anderson at 13:26.

Montreal had the first six shots of the game but the Senators outshot them 16-3 in a dominant second in which



The Canadiens celebrate Brendan Gallagher's goal on Craig Anderson on Sunday night at Canadian Tire Centre. The Canadiens' won 2-0 to finish off the series in six games. MINAS PANAGIOTAKIS/GETTY IMAGES

GAME 6 In Ottawa

2

CANADIENS

0

SENATORS

they did everything but score.

The 20,500 fans at the Canadian Tire Centre were screaming for a too many men on the ice call against Montreal when perhaps a worse omission occurred as referee Chris Lee blew a quick whistle just before Jean-Gabriel Pageau

put a puck in at 6:55 that had fallen past Price.

With Senators legend Daniel Alfredsson cheering from a luxury box, Ottawa went all out in the third for the equalizer but Montreal finished with strong checking and two or three more solid saves from Price.

A late tripping call on Jacob de la Rose gave Ottawa a last chance on the power play, and near the end of it pulled Anderson for a two-skater advantage.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

+ IN ST. PAUL

Wild on to face Chicago

Zach Parise scored twice, including a short-handed, highlight-reel goal to get Minnesota going in the first period, and the Wild advanced to the Western Conference semifinals with a 4-1 victory over the St. Louis Blues on Sunday in Game 6.

Justin Fontaine also scored, Nino Niederreiter added an empty-net goal and the Wild set up a rematch of their second-round loss last year to Chicago. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



The Wild celebrate Zach Parise's short-handed goal against the Blues on Sunday. GETTY IMAGES

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Chelsea closes in on title

PREMIER LEAGUE

Arsenal draw brings Blues 10 points clear in standings

With a tenacious defensive display, Chelsea held Arsenal to a 0-0 draw on Sunday to close in on its first Premier League title in five years.

Aside from penalty decisions not going Chelsea's way, the only thing that frustrated coach Jose Mourinho at the Emirates Stadium was the chant from Arsenal fans at the end: "Boring, boring Chelsea."

Chelsea is 10 points clear of defending champion Manchester City and Arsenal at the top of the standings with five games to go. And Mourinho was quick to remind Arsenal fans after the game that their team hasn't won the title since 2004. Chelsea has won the league three times since then, with the 2005 and 2006 titles coming in Mourinho's first reign.

"You support a club and you are waiting, waiting, waiting



Chelsea striker Didier Drogba, right, vies with Arsenal defender Per Mertesacker in London on Sunday. ADRIAN DENNIS/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

and for so many years without a Premier League title," Mourinho said. "I think that is very boring."

Manchester United counterpart Louis van Gaal had nothing to brag about on Sunday after

a 3-0 defeat to Everton. The heaviest in the league of Van Gaal's first season in charge left United fourth, but still on course for Champions League qualification.

Chelsea is 12 points in front

of United and can seal the title with victories over Leicester on Wednesday and then Crystal Palace next Sunday.

Injuries to strikers Didier Drogba and Loic Remy forced Mourinho to start without a

“
They came to defend well, and they did that well, and everybody knows that.

Arsenal manager
Arsene Wenger

recognized striker at the Emirates, with Oscar often the most advanced player in the first half.

The midfielder, though, made way for striker Didier Drogba at halftime as a precaution following a clash after 15 minutes.

After the Brazilian lobbed Arsenal goalkeeper David Ospina clattered into him. Chelsea's doctor came onto the field to attend to Oscar but the playmaker returned to action and was only substituted at halftime.

Later Sunday, Chelsea's Eden Hazard picked up the player of the year award, voted on by his fellow professionals in English football. The 24-year-old Belgian winger has 18 goals in all competitions this season.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WORLD CUP

Minimal cuts on tap for Canadian women's team

The Canadian women's soccer team, which went from last at the 2011 World Cup to the medal podium at the 2012 London Olympics, unveils its roster Monday for this summer's World Cup campaign.

There should be few surprises, although coach John Herdman appears poised to include veteran Diana Matheson in his 23-woman squad. The 31-year-old Matheson, a key cog in the team's mid-field engine, injured her anterior cruciate ligament last October in a friendly and was seen last week with crutches after tweaking a foot in her comeback.

Still Herdman said the 166-cap Matheson would be "given every chance."

Defender Lauren Sessmann, who tore up her knee in February 2014, has already returned to action.

Herdman has 25 women in residence including Matheson, so the cut is minimal. He will also name a taxi squad of six players in case of injury.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NBA

Cavs lose Love as they sweep Celtics



LeBron James shoots over the Celtics' Jared Sullinger in Boston on Sunday.

JIM ROGASH/GETTY IMAGES

LeBron James scored 27 points and the Cleveland Cavaliers overcame a shoulder injury to Kevin Love to complete a first-round sweep of the Boston Celtics with a 101-93 victory Sunday.

Love left the court in the first quarter with a dislocated left shoulder, and J.R. Smith was ejected for swinging his arm at Jae Crowder, but the Cavaliers held on to win a series for the first time since 2010, before James left for Miami.

Now Cleveland gets extra time before facing the winner of the Chicago-Milwaukee series. The Bulls lead 3-1.

Thomas and Jared Sullinger had 21 points apiece for Boston.

Smith faces possible suspension to start the second round.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Paul pours in 34 points, Clips even series with Spurs

Chris Paul had 34 points and seven assists, Blake Griffin added 20 points and 19 rebounds, and the Los Angeles Clippers beat the San Antonio Spurs 114-105 on Sunday to even their first-round series at two games apiece.

J.J. Redick scored 17 points for the Clippers and Austin Rivers provided an unexpected boost off the bench with a post-season career-high 16 points.

Game 5 of the only series that is tied after four games is Tuesday in Los Angeles.

Kawhi Leonard scored 26 points, Tim Duncan had 22 points and 10 rebounds and Tony Parker added 18 points for the Spurs.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Orioles show Red Sox no mercy at the plate

Delmon Young drove in five runs, Chris Davis homered and the Baltimore Orioles received a bounce-back pitching performance from Bud Norris in an 18-7 victory over the Boston Red Sox on Sunday.

Baltimore took control with a six-run third inning and led 12-0 in the sixth. Davis, Jimmy Paredes and Steve Pearce each contributed three RBIs to the Orioles' second straight win following a five-game skid.

It was Baltimore's most prolific offensive showing since an 18-9 win over Cleveland on April 19, 2006, and the most runs the Orioles ever scored against Boston.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB

Archer dominant against Blue Jays



The Rays' Chris Archer pitched seven scoreless innings Sunday.

BRIAN BLANCO/GETTY IMAGES

Chris Archer pitched two-hit ball in seven scoreless innings and Brandon Guyer drove in four runs Sunday as the Tampa Bay Rays won their fifth straight, 5-1 over the Toronto Blue Jays.

Archer (3-2) became the first American League pitcher to go four starts within one season without giving up an earned run since Zach Greinke did it for Kansas City in 2009.

Archer gave up an unearned run in a 1-0 loss to Boston on Tuesday, but he has not given up an earned run since opening day, a span of 26-2/3 innings. His ERA is 0.84.

Evan Longoria had three straight hits and a walk for the Rays after going 4-for-4 on Saturday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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MEGA

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Prep time: 15 minutes
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Ingredients

- Serves 8
- Meatballs
- 4 oz lean ground beef
- 2 Tbsp bread crumbs
- 1 Tbsp finely chopped green onions
- 1 Tbsp barbeque sauce
- 1 small egg
- ½ tsp minced garlic
- 1 – 12" whole wheat thin pizza crust
- ½ cup tomato sauce
- 3 oz grated mozzarella cheese
- 2 Tbsp chopped basil

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 425 F. Spray

a baking sheet or pizza pan with vegetable oil.

2. In a bowl, combine ground beef, bread crumbs, onions, barbeque sauce, egg and garlic. Form into mini meatballs (around 20).

3. Spread tomato sauce over pizza bread, scatter meatballs on top and add grated cheese. Bake for 15 - 20 minutes or until bread browns and turns crisp.

4. Garnish with basil.

Nutrition information per serving

- Calories 178
- Carbohydrates 20 g
- Fibre 0.8 g
- Protein 9.2 g
- Fat 6.5 g
- Saturated fat 2.2 g
- Cholesterol 33 mg
- Sodium 413 mg

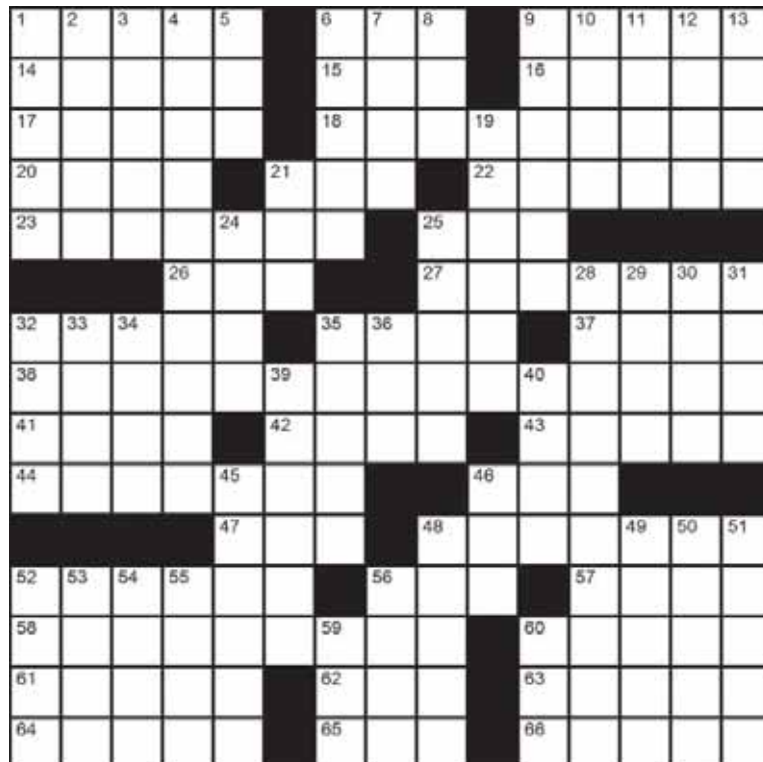
PHOTO: ROSE REISMAN

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

ACROSS

1. "___ I saw. I conquered."
6. Tangle
9. Mary J. Blige's "No More ___"
14. Couches
15. Ms. Lupino
16. Reddish-rose dye
17. Accumulate
18. Philippe ___, Premier of Quebec
20. "What ___ mind reader?"
21. Married title
22. Guns ___ (American rockers)
23. Mount Sir Wilfrid Laurier is this BC range's highest peak, ___ Mountains
25. Rusted
26. "Moist" suffix
27. Journeys
32. Spanish wine region
35. Cat's sound
37. "The Producers" (2005) character
38. CN Tower, for example: 2 wds.
41. Gary ___, Canada's Ambassador to the United States
42. Eng. is part of it: 2 wds.
43. Numbered albums songstress
44. FOX News' "The ___ Factor"
46. Road type, e.g.
47. Be ill
48. Particular pickle
52. Loses one's composure in an emergency



56. Fashion designer Anna
57. Excavation for extracting
58. Pasta order
60. Countries
61. From head
62. Mr. Linden
63. Accountant's review

64. Novelist's creation
65. Conclusion
66. Hillsides

DOWN

1. Abraham's offering to God
2. ,
3. Get ___ shake
4. General Manager

- of the Toronto Raptors: 2 wds.
5. Cousin of -ette
6. Very tiny
7. Brouhahas
8. Greek alphabet's 19th letter
9. Singer Lana: 2 wds.
10. Chocolate-coated caramel candy

11. Botanist Mr. Gray's
12. Muck
13. Connectors of words
19. Not on the road, as a sports team: 2 wds.
21. Canadian musician Mr. Berg
24. Kellogg's All-___

25. Intro-to-French verb
28. Montreal-born musician Melissa: 3 wds.
29. Much meriment
30. Airline of Israel: 2 wds.
31. Fully satisfy
32. Fix over again
33. "This is some priority; ___ we are spoiled." - Shakespeare
34. Decorative curved arch
35. Ms. Streep
36. Literary monogram
39. Church: French
40. Donated
45. Singer/host Nick
46. Sushi tuna
48. Association for crafts/trades people
49. In a way, slang-style
50. Sort of film or band
51. Aeries
52. Calif. clock settings
53. ___ of boiling potatoes (Stove sight)
54. Intl. alliance created in 1949
55. Prince ___ (Alexander Borodin opera)
56. Comic books legend Mr. Lee
59. Definite article
60. Petri dish locale

★ IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries March 21 - April 20

If something goes wrong over the next 24 hours there are two approaches you can take: either you can look round for someone to blame or you can take responsibility yourself. Make it the latter.

♉ Taurus April 21 - May 21

There will be a clash of egos as the new week begins and although you won't be directly involved you will be affected. Under no circumstances agree to take sides, because even if you choose right you will lose out in some way.

♊ Gemini May 22 - June 21

You will clash with someone whose opinions you don't much like today, but if you stay calm and think logically you may discover that what they are saying has an element of truth in it.

♋ Cancer June 22 - July 23

You will find yourself up against someone who is every bit as immovable as you, so the best you can hope for is a stalemate. Don't waste your time and energy on battles like this that cannot be won.

♌ Leo July 24 - Aug. 23

Be careful what you say as the new week gets underway because the planets warn you could say far too much. You may have been able to laugh off your big mouth in the past but now others won't be quite so forgiving.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

Your sixth sense is telling you that something is wrong with your life and needs to be fixed. There will be a lot of upheavals over the next few days - use them to disguise your own mini revolution.

♎ Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

If you hesitate for even a moment today you could miss out on an opportunity that may not come again for a very long time. Make sure you stay alert over the next 24 hours.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

You won't hesitate to speak your mind today but be careful because certain people have got it into their head that you could do with being taken down a peg or two. Be confident but be tactful too.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

According to the planets you have been focusing on trivia and missing the big stuff. You will mentally kick yourself later if you look back and see what you might have achieved.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

If you take a risk of some kind over money today it may pay off, but even if it does you must not cast aside your usual cautious Capricorn nature. You of all people should know that it's not about risk, it's about hard work.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

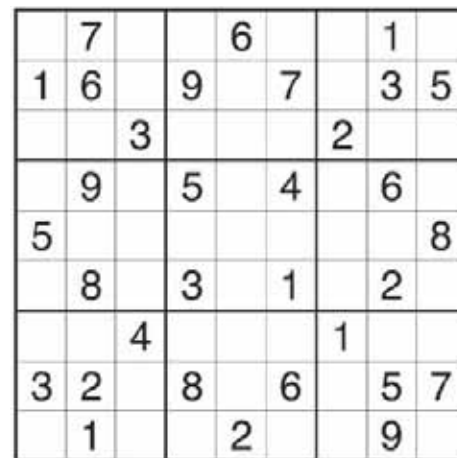
If someone promises you the world and fails to deliver today you will no doubt be angry, but you should be at least as angry with yourself as you are with them. You knew they were aiming too high and you should have told them.

♓ Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20

Try not to let your imagination get the better of you today, because once it heads off in a crazy direction it may be hard to bring it back to reality.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9



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